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HON. HANNIBAL HAMLIN.



IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BIRTH OF

# HANNIBAL HAMLIN

PARIS, MAINE, AUGUST 27, 1909

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL  
LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF MAINE



PORTLAND, MAINE  
LEFAVOR-TOWER COMPANY

1909

Chas. Hamlin

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## FOREWORD

AT a meeting of the Maine Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, held in Portland on March 3, 1909, Brevet Major-General Joshua L. Chamberlain read a paper on Abraham Lincoln, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of President Lincoln's birth, February 12, 1809. It was the same paper that he had read in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia before the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania on the day of the Lincoln Centennial, and a most eloquent and impressive delineation of the character and services of the martyr president. At the close of the reading of the paper, and after expression had been given to the profound impression which the paper had made upon all present, the recorder called attention to the fact that on August 27, 1909, would occur the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Hannibal Hamlin, vice-president with Lincoln, a Third Class Companion of the Loyal Legion, and at the time of his death a member of the Maine Commandery; and suggested that the annual meeting of the Commandery, May 5, 1909, be made a Hamlin commemorative meeting. The suggestion was favorably received, and General Selden Connor was requested to prepare a paper for the May meeting on the life and services of Mr. Hamlin. This paper, when read at the annual meeting, awakened the deepest interest in the members of the Commandery and their invited guests, and it was at once suggested that the Commandery take into consideration the erection on Paris Hill of a suitable memorial of Maine's distinguished son. This suggestion, also, was favorably received, and Brevet Major-General Joshua L. Chamberlain, Brigadier-General Selden Connor and Brevet Major Henry S. Burrage were

requested to confer with the citizens of Paris and make arrangements for the erection of such a memorial and for its dedication on August 27, 1909, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mr. Hamlin.

Soon after, by request of the committee, General Charles Hamlin and Major Burrage visited Paris, and conferred with Mr. George M. Atwood and other citizens of the town with reference to the memorial and its unveiling August 27, 1909. The citizens entered heartily into the plans for the proposed undertaking. They at once agreed to place on the "Common" in front of the house in which Mr. Hamlin was born a memorial boulder, and the Maine Commandery of the Loyal Legion agreed to affix to it a bronze tablet with a suitable inscription. It was also agreed that the citizens of Paris should have charge of the local arrangements connected with the celebration under the direction of appropriate committees, while the Loyal Legion should select the speakers, and take charge of the public exercises on centennial day.

The committees appointed by the citizens of Paris were as follows :

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — Admiral Henry W. Lyon, Rev. G. W. F. Hill, Lewis M. Brown, George M. Atwood, Henry D. Hammond, James S. Wright, George R. Morton, N. Dayton Bolster, Charles L. Case, L. C. Bates, William J. Wheeler, Arthur E. Forbes, William C. Stearns, Charles W. Bowker, Dr. F. E. Wheeler, Prof. E. A. Daniels, Charles W. Chase.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE — Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker, Mrs. E. H. Jackson, Mrs. O. A. Thayer, Mrs. George M. Atwood, Mrs. J. C. Cummings, Mrs. W. H. Cummings.

DECORATION COMMITTEE — Daniel Winslow, Charles E. Case, Mrs. H. W. Lyon, Mrs. F. C. Case, Miss Gertrude Brown, Clayton K. Brooks.

COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS — Hiram R. Hubbard, Wilbur L. Farrar, Alfred H. Jackson.

COMMITTEE ON BOULDER — Loren B. Merrill, Olban A. Maxim, George W. Cole, Ernest F. Shaw, Joseph B. Cole.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE — Rev. and Mrs. G. W. F. Hill, Rev. and Mrs. Dr. Mann, Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Knickerbocker, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Case, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Parris, Miss Fannie Hammond, Mrs. M. C. Snow, Dr. Charlotte F. Hammond.



BIRTHPLACE OF HANNIBAL HAMLIN.



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE—Albert D. Park, John Pierce, Newton Cummings, Jarvis M. Thayer, Archie H. Curtis, Albert W. Walker, Alfred M. Daniels.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Perley F. Ripley, Frederick T. Case, Miss Persis N. Andrews, Miss Agnes Brown, Miss E. G. May, Mrs. J. L. Carter, Mrs. C. P. Harlow.

COMMITTEE ON SPEAKERS' STAND AND SEATS—O. A. Thayer, George Gibbs, Charles L. Shaw, E. B. Curtis, Fred W. Shaw.

COMMITTEE ON CARE OF HORSES—H. P. Hammond, James L. Chase, Alonzo Pomeroy, Leslie E. Newell, L. Ellsworth Thayer, S. C. Buck, George H. Proctor.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—George M. Atwood, John Pierce, Hiram R. Hubbard, Mrs. E. H. Jackson, Mrs. O. A. Thayer.

A suitable memorial boulder was at length found in the Hamlin pasture, land now owned by Mr. Hiram Heald, and it was hauled to its place in front of the Hamlin mansion by the strong draft-horses belonging to the Paris Manufacturing Company, furnished by the general manager of the company, Mr. George R. Morton. A concrete foundation was prepared for the boulder, and the ground around it for some distance was graded up to the base of the boulder.

The tablet was prepared by the well-known bronze and brass workers, Paul E. Cabaret & Company of New York City, whose design was approved July 14, 1909. It was cast early in August, and when finished was shipped to Paris, where it was placed on the memorial boulder under the direction of the Paris committee.





## THE COMMEMORATION

THE day of the commemoration, August 27, 1909, was not an ideal one for Paris Hill. Welcome showers on the afternoon of the previous day had laid the dust and lowered the high temperature of the middle of the week, but a northwest wind swept over the hill-top, and clouds shut out somewhat the warm sunshine. All in all, however, the weather conditions were preferable to those of either of the two preceding days.

The Hamlin mansion was in holiday dress, and so was the residence of Rear Admiral Henry W. Lyon (retired), near the stand that had been erected for the speakers in front of the Baptist church, which was decorated with flags and bunting. The Hamlin elm, planted by Hannibal Hamlin in his earlier years and now a large tree, was also decorated, while the memorial boulder was veiled by two American flags. Places of historic interest on the Hill were marked with placards for the information of the visitors of the day.

Many of the guests of the families on the Hill had already arrived. Early in the morning of the centennial others in crowds began to appear, coming by the various roads centering on Paris Hill. They came in vehicles of all descriptions from a hayrack to an automobile, and not a few came afoot. Oxford county of course was largely represented, but there were visitors from all parts of Maine and from many places beyond the state. By some the attendance was estimated at about five thousand, but the *Oxford Democrat* probably is nearer to the fact in its conservative estimate of about three thousand.

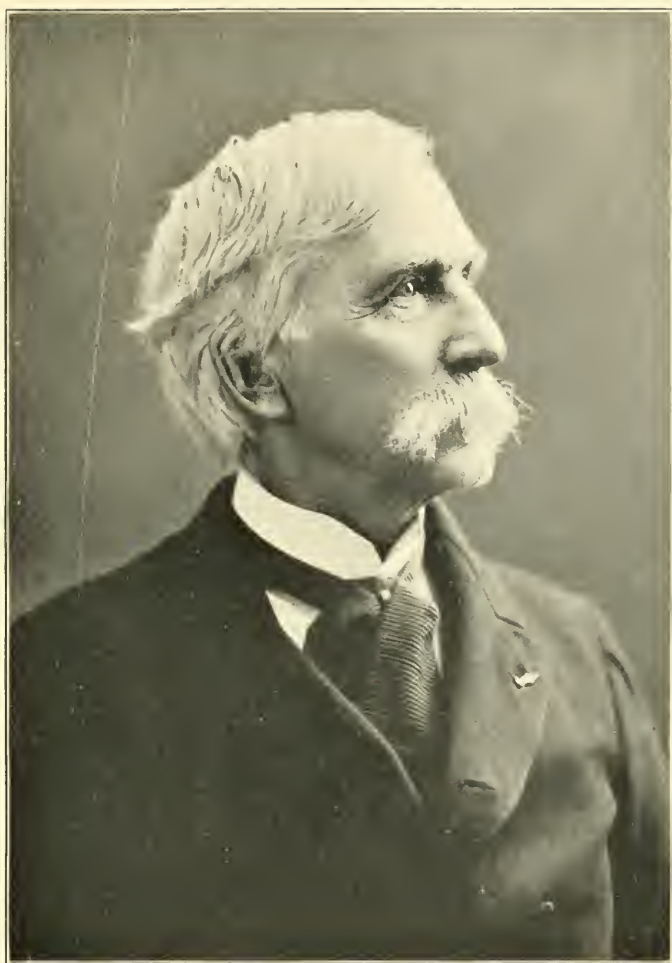
Those who came on the Grand Trunk morning train from Portland were met at the station at South Paris by teams provided by the committee on transportation, and the road from

South Paris to Paris Hill became an animated scene as the long line of carriages ascended the highway leading to Paris Hill. With the Loyal Legion came the famous military band of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, under the direction of Bandmaster Thieme. In Academy Hall lunch had been provided for the Loyal Legion, and the members of the band, by the Universalist Good Cheer Society of South Paris; and this was served not long after their arrival. The speakers at the centennial exercises, and the ladies accompanying them, were most hospitably entertained at the homes of the residents on Paris Hill.

The services connected with the centennial were opened at 12.15 by the band of the National Soldiers' Home in front of the Baptist church, where seats were provided for many of the visitors; while on the portico of the church, immediately in rear of the speakers' platform, were seated members of the Hamlin family, Companions of the Loyal Legion, and other guests. The following members of the Hamlin family were present: Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin of Bangor, the widow of the vice-president; General Charles Hamlin of Bangor, Hon. Hannibal E. Hamlin of Ellsworth and Mr. Frank Hamlin of Chicago, Ill., sons of Hannibal Hamlin; Mr. Charles E. Hamlin of New York City (son of General Charles Hamlin) and his wife; Miss Louise M. Hamlin, great-granddaughter; Dr. Cyrus Hamlin of Brooklyn, N. Y., grandson; Hannibal Hamlin (son of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin) great-grandson; Hon. Charles S. Hamlin of Boston (cousin) and his wife; Edward Hamlin of Boston (cousin) and his daughter, Elinor C. Hamlin, grand-niece.

At 12.30 promptly Rear Admiral Henry W. Lyon, U. S. N. (retired), chairman of the Paris executive committee, on behalf of the citizens of Paris, announced their choice of Brevet Major-General Joshua L. Chamberlain as the president of the day. In presenting him, he said:

"It is an honor to have General Chamberlain with us — the worthy and patriotic citizen, gallant soldier, erudite educator and



MAJ.-GEN. JOSHUA L. CHAMBERLAIN.



thrice governor of this state ; he needs no introduction to a Maine or national audience."

General Chamberlain, having gracefully acknowledged the honor conferred upon him, introduced the Rev. Dr. John S. Sewall of Bangor, chaplain of the Maine Commandery of the Loyal Legion, as the chaplain of the day.

After the prayer, General Chamberlain said :

"Honored by his fellows in being called to distinguished positions in state and nation ; advisor, counselor and trusted friend of Abraham Lincoln, as vice-president of the United States during the darkest four years of the Civil War ; yet in civil life and in private station never forgetting his townsmen or the people of his state whom he called neighbors and friends, Hannibal Hamlin is remembered one hundred years after his birth, and will be remembered when the present century shall have marked off another hundred years on the nation's dial.

"The memorial we consecrate today is a testimony, and not a measurement. The law of Sinai was graven on tables of stone, to hold before men's senses a quickener for their spirit ; committed to the most enduring of earthly substances to compete with the corrosions of time.

"But that record was a reminder of the law written on the heart of every right-minded man — that searching and eternal law which Christ interpreted as the rule of life, and its fulfillment the goal of history.

"So with our tablet here. The enumeration of his offices, however high, is not the measure of the man we honor. His ampler record is in the hearts of those who knew him, and in the influence of his character and the reach of his service, which are immeasurable. No tablet could hold the transcript of this ; nor can the corrosions of time annul it.

"Yet here, where his life begun, our hearts place his memorial, that the hearts of others may see it and be made stronger.

"You, thoughtful citizens, have consecrated this spot, proud to claim this example of manhood in its noblest integrity.

“ You, loyal Companions of his services for his country, have inscribed your testimony of its worth to the world.

“ You, of the coming generations, for whose enlargement of life that worth was given, to you we commit the keeping of this token, not only as a memorial of something great that has passed, but in its meaning and lesson an on-going power for good, passing place and time.”

In introducing Governor Bert M. Fernald, General Chamberlain said :

“ I now present the honored Governor of Maine ; chosen by you to that high place once held by Hannibal Hamlin — and worthily following him — Governor Fernald.”

GOVERNOR FERNALD'S ADDRESS.

“ I need not assure how deeply I am impressed by the significance of this occasion and by this distinguished gathering. I know full well that you are drawn here by the same impulse that draws me here — the earnest desire to give by our presence, and if possible by our words, a fitting turn to this commemorative day and here at the natal place of the great commoner to speak, out of the fullness of the heart of the state of Maine, the tribute that it is eager to pay. It seems to me singularly happy that this event, which we are commemorating should have been in this especially God-given spot ; and that he whose cradle we can almost seem to see rocking in those August days a century ago, should himself have been born in the same year as Abraham Lincoln, and himself have been the first, as I believe is the fact, to have suggested Lincoln's birthday as a day of national holiday. We have just done celebrating that other centennial — and what is finer than that we complete the work of memorial and a year of joint remembrance to the two great men who struck hands together in love, friendship and a perfect understanding, in the great crisis of this nation in 1861 ? The one was born in the new West, when the



HON. BERT M. FERNALD.





tide of slavery was at full flood ; the other was born here in old Oxford county, in the land of mountains that have ever bred free men ; yet the same spirit animated the one as animated the other, and the same call sounded in the ears of the man of Maine as sounded in the ears of the man of Kentucky. God was good to us in 1809 ; He was good to this slave-ridden land far beyond its deserts, as I have sometimes thought, in giving us the rail-splitter, the lawyer, the emancipator of a race ; He was good to us in like degree in giving us here on this hill-top, the quickening of that majestic old commoner, that far-seeing prophet of the times, that unflinching patriot, Hannibal Hamlin.

“ It is the part of others at this time to sketch in detail the life that was begun here a hundred years ago in the even then well-filled Hamlin household, for, with the habit of the time, the cradle of the Hamlins had rocked industriously until 1809. It is but fitting, however, that we refer briefly, at least, to the ancestry of Hannibal Hamlin, and to the associations which cluster about this spot, which, for so many years, was the home of families most influential in the history and development of Maine. Here lived a group of men who exerted great influence in shaping the course of Maine in the opening years of her statehood. Here were an unusual number of educated men, constituting a refined and intellectual environment. As the Washburns in the neighboring town of Livermore were rearing senators, congressmen and governors, so were the Hamlins, out of a stock that descended in direct line from that which followed the Mayflower Pilgrims to Cape Cod and settled in Barnstable in 1639. The Hamlins took active part in the early struggles of colonization. They followed Washington's command through all the dark days of the Revolution, and kept close to Knox, LaFayette, Pulaski, and Alexander Hamilton. Hannibal Hamlin's grandfather became an officer in the Revolutionary army, and in return for his services the General Court of Massachusetts gave him and his sons grants of land in the District of Maine. Major Hamlin visited this land and wrote to the General Court that he did not highly esteem the gift ; indeed, he advised the General Court of

Massachusetts to give the land back to its original owners,—the bears. This may have been the origin of the title of this domain in the so-called Oxford Bears. At any rate, the Oxford Bears got one of the choicest slices of the territory of Maine, and to their credit they have tremendously improved both the quality of the land and the stock of bears since that time. And the Hamlins who came here helped to do it. Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, father of Hannibal Hamlin, graduated at Harvard Medical School; was six feet tall, and weighed two hundred pounds—a great man in every way. He settled in Livermore, married a Livermore of Pilgrim patriotic stock on both sides of her house. Dr. Cyrus Hamlin moved here to Paris Hill in 1805, where he built this beautiful old colonial mansion in which Hannibal Hamlin was born, this row of elms, I am told, having been set out by Hannibal Hamlin himself. The Hamlins played as children with the Washburns, Israel, Elihu B., Cadwallader, Charles, and William D., an unique group of lads of whom, in their joint and several destinies, three were to be governors of states, five were to be members of the House of Representatives in Congress, two or three to be United States senators, three were to be diplomats in the most exalted position in foreign service, one was to be secretary of state in the cabinet of President Grant, and one was to be vice-president of the United States.

“This is of no common or uncertain consequence. We are apt to credit the supernatural element of life and give acknowledgment to God alone for raising up men in great crises, but we must give credit also in the fixing of character, the formation of ideals, and the growth of intellectual power to ancestry and environment. Men get much of their power of sacrifice from the father or the mother—quite as often the latter—and they find much of their incentive to liberty and freedom from dwelling in these great open places, on hills and mountains like these, that ever have reared men devoted to freedom and to public service.

“And Hannibal Hamlin was a man of this type. In these days we find a large, and sometimes I am afraid, a growing incredulity,

that any man should risk his own future for the cause that he believes to be right. We have come as a people too largely to estimate the acts of public servants as from a purely selfish standpoint. It is not wise to claim too much (for this frequently reacts), but in all you may read of Hannibal Hamlin you will find that he never hesitated between what he thought to be right and what he thought to be solely for his own interests. If the two conflicted he chose the path of public service. This made him great; this crowned his life with something better than mere success; this made him fit to be set in the same frame with Abraham Lincoln; this endows this spot on which we stand today, as hallowed with ten thousand memories of his sweet and gentle nature, his kindling wit, his broad human sympathy, his devotion to the right. His remarkable abilities, his unique intellectual achievements, his political sagacity could not alone have accomplished this. Other men have had these and failed. Others have been equipped with all that make men great only to become little. At the height of his career Hamlin risked his apparent future; broke with the political faith of his fathers; renounced the party of Calhoun and Douglas in which he was born, and for the sake of his self respect and at the cost of an influence that had made him for a generation the favorite son of the old Democracy of Maine, allied himself with a new cause that seemed almost hopeless and helpless. The Douglas Democracy was at the climax of its power; it had endorsed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and had stood forth in its national convention as the progressive pro-slavery force of the land. The speech of renunciation of that party by Senator Hamlin in the United States Senate was an epoch in his life. It was apparently his political suicide, yet it was but a part of the creed of the man who for twelve years had fought slavery within his own party, and who forsook the party only when it became evident that further fight on that field was useless. He could not follow the impulses of his freedom-loving heart and they led him ultimately in the passing of the next few years of storm and stress to the side of Abraham Lincoln; for Senator Hamlin became the

leader and the hero of the new party in Maine, and that party, animated by the spirit of freedom, swept the Pine Tree State for Hannibal Hamlin as governor by an unprecedented majority in 1856 and soon after sent Hannibal Hamlin back again to the United States Senate as an unfettered champion of human rights, and thereby placed him on an eminence from which he was called into the seat of power at the right hand of Lincoln in 1861.

"If we dwell on this it is to emphasize solely Mr. Hamlin's loyalty to principle. Men wavered in those days. Those who wavered fell; those who stood straight marched on and on, reckless of their fate in the advance of the flag of freedom. The incident typifies Mr. Hamlin. He was loyal. He was loyal to the Democracy until loyalty was stultification. He was loyal to Lincoln. He was loyal to the cause throughout the war. The soldiers of the Union army never had a warmer friend than was Hannibal Hamlin. I have recently received from the state historian, Dr. Henry S. Burrage, a hitherto unpublished letter, recently found among some of Governor Israel Washburn's papers, which shows Mr. Hamlin's earnestness for the cause of freedom, and which letter I am permitted, through the kindness of the state historian, to read to you for the first time. It is as follows:

"New York, Apr. 23, 1861.

DEAR GOVERNOR:

I arrived here this morning. The devotion of our people of all classes is heart cheering. The whole country is wild with excitement. I have time to say but a few words and those I deem important. While Maine should act with all POSSIBLE DESPATCH and have her one regiment in the field at the EARLIEST PRACTICABLE MOMENT, still, before they are sent from home be sure and have them all well uniformed and equipped. Be sure of that. I trust the legislature will put at least ten more regiments upon a war footing, ready to march at an hour's notice.

Yours truly,

H. Hamlin.'

"This letter peculiarly illustrates Mr. Hamlin's zeal for the cause; his personal interest in the comfort and welfare of the soldiers and his pride in the good name of Maine.

“Mr. Hamlin was especially loyal to his native state. He was loyal to his neighbors. He was loyal to himself and to the memory of those true-hearted people from whom he had descended. Upon his retirement from office as vice-president he became collector of the port of Boston under Andrew Johnson. Again he saw his duty in self-sacrifice, for he resigned this office of great emoluments because, as he said, he could not acquiesce by his silence in measures that sought to restore to power men who sought to destroy the government. He again returned to the United States Senate, where he served through the administrations of General Grant and his successor, until at the age of seventy-two he voluntarily withdrew from his proud position as the father of the Senate in influence and in wisdom in order to make way for younger men then coming upon the field of action. Mr. Hamlin hoped to pass the serene twilight of his life at his home in Bangor, but he was again called into active political life in the campaign of Mr. Blaine. Later he was appointed United States minister to the court of Spain ; resigned after a year of service, and, early in the eighties, came back to Bangor to live among his old friends whom he loved and who loved him with a love that passeth words. Here he died one July Fourth, when more than eighty years of age. His life had spanned the history of the nation from Jefferson to McKinley. He had seen the nation grow from seven million people and seventeen states to nearly sixty million people and nearly forty states. He had fought a life-time for emancipation and had seen the edict of emancipation issued. His career had been unsullied by scandal and untouched by scorn. He had lived as true men should live according to the strict mandates of his conscience. He died as saints should die.

“We stand here to-day on the scene of his birth. We mark with memorial a spot worthy of remembrance. It would have been unworthy had the life been small and mean — no matter what had been its power or prominence — but it was not small and mean ; it was great and purposeful ; it was distinguished by a lofty public service in high places ; it was endowed by the



spirit of patriotism and enriched by common sense ; it was Christian ; it was courageous ; it was a definite force in human progress. May Maine never forget Hannibal Hamlin ; may it never cease to honor him and may children's children come to this spot and here learn the story of the life of this country lad, who in recognition of the immortal ideals of manhood, and in the exaltation of public service above personal or party pride, attained great power and privilege which he ever used for the good of his fellow men."

Governor Fernald was followed by the Hon. John D. Long, ex governor of Massachusetts and ex-secretary of the navy, who was introduced by General Chamberlain, as follows :

"Now it is the testimony of a governor of Massachusetts,—furnished her by this state of Maine, overflowing with great men ; from this region where the very earth is prolific of jewels, —born in the bordering town ; himself fulfilling great public trusts in highest circles of government,—returning here to honor and be honored,—Governor John D. Long."

#### GOVERNOR LONG'S ADDRESS.

"Hannibal Hamlin is only half his title. He was Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.] Such was his identification with his and our native state that he was rooted in her soil as were her pines. Her characteristics, her traditions, her spirit were his wherever he was—in her legislative halls, in the Senate of the United States, in diplomatic circles abroad, in every act and word of his life. No son of hers was ever more loyal. She was the breath of his nostrils from the hour a hundred years ago today when he was born on this hill where we now fitly gather to honor the anniversary and to dedicate to his memory this massive granite boulder — fit emblem of the firm and impregnable solidity of the man.

"And what a full life, ripening to the full corn in the ear, it was! How full and fortunate ! I can think of none more fortunate. His birth was in this paradise of Paris Hill unsurpassed



HON. JOHN D. LONG.





for glory of natural scenery, the home of two early governors of the state whose modest law office still stands a precious memorial and whose influence helped to mould him. He was cradled under the shadow of Streaked Mountain with the towering range of the White Mountains flinging back the sunset on his gaze. Health, strength, freedom were in the very air of his native hills. His education was in the best of the colleges of his time, which neither Harvard nor Bowdoin excelled — the college of the common school and of the spirit, political discussions, democratic associations and patriotic traditions of the unmixed New England people of his boyhood. The greater part of the early settlers of all this region were Revolutionary soldiers. With a limited period at nearby Hebron Academy and, best of all, with the inspiration of a family circle of the best blood and character, what education or enfolding could have better fitted him for his career?

“The stock from which he came is of the first rank. He was happy in his parentage, as also in his offspring who worthily maintain the honor of the family name. The Hamlins and Livermores from whom he sprang on either side and the Washburns, all descendants of the Pilgrims and the Puritans, were pioneers from Massachusetts into Oxford County, Maine, after the Revolutionary war in which they served, and they were the founders of the neighboring town of Livermore, prolific of noted men. These are names which are now honored in the United States and the world over. What keener stimulus for honorable fame and service could any boy have had! What wonder that from the first he was a leader — a leader of his youthful mates as he became afterwards a leader of men and of his country! Make all this the environment of a nature fearless, truthful, absolutely honest and incorrupt, sound in mind and body, God’s best gifts, and you have the man. It was these qualities that endeared him to the people of Maine and made him the most popular as he was the most trusted representative that ever stood for their interests in the public service. There was a rugged nobility in him that won their hearts. It disdained the

veneer of sham and deceit as his hardy frame all his life disdained an overcoat.

“The story of his career is too familiar to be repeated to those who know it by heart. It was steady advance on and up, and never a taint was on it. He was without fear and without reproach. He studied law one year in the best law office in Portland. He settled in the then extreme east of Maine — an Orient-going pioneer as his father had been before him. There he practised law — an honest lawyer. But his natural bent to a public career quickly led him into the path of public service. He at once was in the lead. He was captain of the local militia company. He was chosen a representative in the State Legislature at twenty-five, and there at intervals served five years, three times elected speaker after his first term, the youngest man that ever held that place. At thirty-five he was a member of the National House of Representatives ; at thirty-eight United States senator ; at forty-seven governor of Maine ; at fifty-two vice-president of the republic, and would have been renominated for that office had Lincoln’s preference been followed ; in 1865, collector of customs at Boston ; from 1869 to 1881, again in the United States Senate ; when three years before threescore and ten, minister to Spain ; and for the last ten years of his life enjoying the rest he had earned and enjoying it not idle or impaired but with the old boyish keenness of interest in the neighbors, the farm, the fishing brooks, the civic and rural surroundings of his Penobscot home, with his devoted wife and children about him, now and then returning to the political stump, notably for McKinley in his congressional campaign in Ohio in 1884, or appearing before state legislative committees or attending the inauguration of President Harrison. When — so fittingly on Independence Day, July 4, 1891 — he died sitting at his club, the Nestor among his associates, it was no lingering death-bed but the quick, painless stop of the full beating heart and unimpaired brain. What a refutation of the Osler cult !

“This is the skeleton of his career. Its flesh and blood are eighty-two years of abounding life. Among its distinguishing

characteristics are its ardent patriotism, its devotion to human freedom, its fidelity to the material interests of Maine, its irreproachable private walk and habits, its marvelous common sense and shrewd forecast of the national trend, and its unsurpassed ability and skill in political organization, management and achievement.

“From the first, to his everlasting honor be it said, he stood like a rock against the push and extension of slavery. He stood by John Quincy Adams for the right of petition. He indignantly parted company with Franklin Pierce, whom he had helped to elect president, when the latter asked him to vote for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He broke from the Democratic party of his early faith and love when, overpowered by its Southern affiliations, it was no longer the party of freedom. He fought and won the fight which, because of his anti-slavery leanings, his own party associates made against his first re-election to the United States Senate. When later the old party ties were entirely severed, he was among the leaders who formed the new party of freedom and who put Maine at the head of the free column, where it has ever since stood.

“Meantime he was active in behalf of the material interests of his country. His sagacity foresaw and did not fear its rapid extension and development. Strong in statement and carrying weight when he spoke on the platform or in senatorial debate, he yet — not so much as an orator as an accomplisher of results — made his mark and won the compliment of being ‘the best business man’ in the Senate. Sumner and Hoar and Blaine and many another competent critic have borne striking testimony to his effectiveness and influence. It was not his least powerful and timely action when in his last days in the Senate, as chairman of the committee on foreign relations, withstanding the ‘Chinese cheap labor’ clamor, he grandly spoke for the national faith and honor and defended and successfully maintained the treaty rights of China.

“His shrewd native sense went to the point of things. He divined the trend which made the nomination of Seward in 1860

impracticable and from the first, even against the sentiment of his state, advocated and was a powerful factor in the nomination of Lincoln, with whom, against his own expressed inclination but in token of his recognized fitness and eminence, he was put upon the Republican ticket for the vice-presidency.

“How, even at this half-century interval, the heart quickens as we recall those inspiring days: the anti-slavery fervor that preceded and brought on the war; the debate between Lincoln and Douglas; the freedom-songs of Whittier and Lowell; the fiery eloquence of Wendell Phillips and the dogged persistence of Garrison; the fireside and country store discussions and grove meetings in every hamlet; the uprising of the popular heart and conscience against the aggressions of the slave power! And then the war; the soldiering on every village green; the march to the front; the defeats and victories; the glories and horrors of battle; Julia Ward Howe’s battle-hymn; Gettysburg, where Chamberlain won the hero’s chaplet; the comet-burst of Grant and Sherman and Sheridan; the marching through Georgia; Appomattox; victory; reunion; the grand review of the returning troops in Washington; the abolition of slavery! In all this Hannibal Hamlin was an inspiring part, a very dynamo among the forces that thrilled through the whole land and wrought the glorious result, a result beneficent alike to all sections, enfranchising and redeeming the South as well as vindicating the North, not to be regarded by any patriot as a sectional victory, but as the blessed consolidation and advancement of the whole country, North and South alike, indeed no longer North and South, but one land with one flag and one destiny, one as never before since the Revolution.

“Hamlin made no false estimate of the insistence and strength of the Rebellion. When Seward declared that it would be over in ninety days, Hamlin, wiser and surer, truly predicted that it would be long and bloody, and urged immediate and full preparation for it, and no man more heartily did his part; himself enlisting as a private, putting raw recruits through the drill, a lath for a sword in his hand, and never failing to visit and care

for the Maine boys in the field. He upheld the arm of Lincoln, who trusted and consulted him and whose emancipation proclamation he urged and welcomed. He championed every measure for the vigorous prosecution of the war. His voice was for action. His soul was in the cause. Well may the Maine Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States — and no more gallant group of officers went from any state — place, they and the citizens of Paris, this memorial to a Maine civilian, who was made a Companion of that order because of his ‘especial distinction’ for loyalty to the cause for which those gallant officers fought.

“It is an old saying that the poet is born, not made. If it is true, it is as true of the politician as of the poet. Aptness for public affairs is largely an inherent quality, a gift of nature. It finds its consummation in the statesman. As the bright wit of Speaker Reed — we love to call him Tom Reed — put it, the statesman is the politician who is dead. In this high and laudable interpretation of the word, Hannibal Hamlin, like Lincoln, was first and last, a politician. But he never was a trimmer. He had convictions, deep-seated, controlling. To carry them into effect and to ensure his own political placing for effectuating them he indeed left no stone unturned. Ambitious, loving the exercise of power and the holding of official position for its exercise? Yes. But it was the ambition which, rightly directed and inspired, is the agency that works all the great advances and reforms. A politician? Yes. But never a time-serving politician. Had he been he never would have broken with the strong forces in his own party which seemed to hold his political fortune in their hands, yet which he defied rather than sacrifice his principles. Had he been, he never would have resigned the lucrative office of collector of customs — valuable to him who was not rich in worldly goods — rather than serve or endorse the administration of Andrew Johnson. Not a time-serving but a people-serving politician. And the plain people knew him and trusted him. They knew that he kept faith and that his word was as good as his bond.



"It is easy and common to accuse men, who have Hamlin's popularity, of truckling to popular favor, of resorting to popular arts, of demagogical hobnobbing and letting down. But any popularity so gained is sham and evanescent and never stands the test of time. Hamlin's popularity stood the test of three-score years and never weakened. It was a popularity born in him—the genuine outcome of the nature of the man. He 'liked folks.' In his boyhood he was the companion and leader of his mates. His personal relations with his fellow men were hearty, responsive, sincere. In the very fury of the anti-slavery struggle he retained the personal friendship of Southern and Democratic leaders who on public questions were his bitter opponents. There was no affectation in his hail-fellow-well-metness. It was genuine. It was simply the involuntary unstudied disclosure of the inner man he was. He could no more affect chill and reserve than the cold and reserved man can affect cordiality. He had a playful love of fun and practical jokes, one of which cost him a re-election to the United States Senate. When at an anniversary of Hebron Academy years ago, he took us young fellows into the grove back of it and sitting on a log, smoking a 'long nine,' himself a boy again, recalled to us the memories of his academic days and put himself in sympathy with us and our interests and ambitions, it was the outbubbling of his very instincts and temperament. Hannibal Hamlin the politician, — honored be the title — is dead; Hannibal Hamlin the statesman still lives.

"Lincoln and Hamlin! Born the same year. Typical Americans. Both from and of the 'plain people.' Both mastering fortune, working their way, winning the prize. Both kept the faith and fought the good fight. They spoke for freedom. They guided the nation through perilous war to a new birth of liberty and union. Their names were blazoned together on the flag of the triumphant election of president and vice-president of the United States in 1860. From that day to this they have been engraved together on the history of their country. In this centennial year since their birth they, still together, shine forth with

a fresh lustre, inspiring in this later generation of American youth, native or foreign born, the spirit of patriotism, of loyal service, of personal integrity, of unflinching courage, of true citizenship. Engraven in the history of their country and glowing today with living fire in our hearts are the names of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin."

General Chamberlain then introduced Senator Eugene Hale, of Ellsworth, who spoke without notes, but very impressively. In introducing Senator Hale, General Chamberlain said :

"This prolific region furnishes yet another jewel, the second adjoining town giving to the State and the country one whose station and power in the government mark him one of the ablest of our senators,—who followed in that high place Hannibal Hamlin returning from honored companionship with Lincoln. I present Senator Eugene Hale."

The following report of Senator Hale's address is taken from the *Oxford Democrat* of August 31 :

#### SENATOR HALE'S ADDRESS.

"I do not speak without some emotion, in attending this memorial in honor of Hannibal Hamlin. The name of Hannibal Hamlin is near to me. Eighty-three years ago my father and Hannibal Hamlin attended Hebron Academy together, lived in the same house, and were boys and friends together. My early political life was under the friendship and confidence of the great senator. The sweet lady, who honors this occasion with her presence, is a near friend of me and of my wife. So it seems entirely fitting that I should take some small part in a memorial to Hannibal Hamlin.

"After all that has been said, and has been so well said, of the career of Hannibal Hamlin, there is little that I need to add. As a looker-on I saw it all, and when I first entered the halls of Congress as a representative, there was no better friend and mentor of mine than Senator Hamlin. I know how strong he was, not only with the people of Maine, but with the men in public life.

"The one thing which I wish to emphasize is his foundation principle of absolute truthfulness and sincerity. In no place was there any question of his position. It is a tribute to him to say that I never heard of his being quoted on two sides of any question. That cannot be said of all public men.

"When I entered the Senate, I found that he had carried this reputation there, and it had made him strong and trusted with his associates in that body.

"His sincerity made him take his political life in his hands, and stake it all. I have seen him when the political skies looked dark and cloudy for him; but though others might regard the situation with apprehension, he was always serene, and never disturbed.

"That life, Mr. President, ought to be and is an exemplar. His plain, straightforward way of dealing with things; his plain common sense, to which reference has been made, are things worth emulating. It will be better for Maine, if in the future there are more men who make Hannibal Hamlin their pattern. This west wind that sweeps over this hill is not clearer and purer than was Hannibal Hamlin. These great trees are not more deeply rooted in the soil than was his character rooted in the principles of truth and right. Public life is better, private life is sweeter, because he lived. It is better for us all that he lived, and that we honor his memory as we do to-day."

The last of the addresses was by the Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, of Boston. In presenting him, General Chamberlain said:

"Now again the testimony of Massachusetts; by one who also has large experience in affairs of state, and adjusting the controversies of nations,—who conjoins with the name we honor, another, memorable in our history. I present the Hon. Charles Sumner Hamlin, of Boston."

#### MR. HAMLIN'S ADDRESS.

"In the limited time allotted to me it will be impossible to refer in detail to the many distinguished services rendered the state





HON. EUGENE HALE.



and the nation by Hannibal Hamlin, the hundredth anniversary of whose birth we celebrate to-day. Such reference, however, is not necessary for the services he rendered form a part, and an important part, of our country's history and he who has read that history must needs know that life.

"To my mind, perhaps the most conspicuous trait of the man was his good judgment and unerring common sense, which, coupled with statesmanship of high order and lofty patriotism,—have projected his life into our country's history so that he stands forth not only a great leader of men, but, as well, a wise framer of laws, at a time when leadership and legislative capacity were imperatively called for by the nation.

"The period of time covered by his useful life embraces the most critical period of the history of our country,—a period during which there was developed from a foundation well laid but not too secure, an imposing structure of government admitted by all to be, both ideally and in fact, the most successful republic in the world's history.

"In the building up of this structure Hannibal Hamlin played an important part, and in dwelling briefly upon this historical evolution I feel that I am thereby paying a tribute of respect and admiration to him who did so much to make it a reality.

"It is difficult to grasp the marvellous growth of our country since its foundation. The early colonists, more or less independent communities, soon found that they must come together into some form of union and there resulted the confederation to resist the attacks of hostile Indians; then followed the irritating differences with the mother country which brought forth the committees of correspondence; the next step produced the Continental Congress which proclaimed that great document, the Declaration of Independence; then followed the Articles of Confederation, and lastly, as a crowning result, our present Constitution.

"We should never forget that under that Constitution the people of the United States owe allegiance to no personal sovereign or ruler. They owe allegiance to our government,—and this

allegiance is two-fold,—to the government of the state as well as that of the nation. There is, or should be, no conflict in this two-fold allegiance; it is recognized and affirmed in the Constitution of the United States.

“At different periods of our national life, however, popular attention has been diverted from one of the dual systems of government under which we live and concentrated upon the other. At the foundation of our government under the Constitution, the national idea, of necessity, came to the front, for a national government had just been created. The people of the sovereign states surrendered with much reluctance a part of their sovereign power to the new national government. Under the interpretation and guidance, however, of those great leaders, Wilson, Marshall, Webster, Hamlin and others, the growth of the nation under the powers granted by the people has been steady and sure.

“Hannibal Hamlin represented, perhaps as well as any man in our history, those who firmly believed in the preservation of the sovereign rights of the individual states which had not been transferred to the national government. In fact he may be said to be one of the conspicuous leaders among those who were bred under the inspiration of the states rights doctrine. Under his leadership that doctrine steadily developed. Side by side with it, however, was the doctrine of the other school which emphasized and stood for the power of the national government. While in theory, as I have stated, there was no necessary conflict between the two, yet in practice the history of our country has been but a record of the conflicts between these two schools of political thought as recorded in the legislation of Congress and of the states respectively. For many years in fact the so-called states rights doctrine marked the dividing line between the two principal political parties.

“The great political party, however, to which Hannibal Hamlin then belonged, carried the states rights doctrine to such extremes that statesmen began to perceive that the doctrine thus applied might become, as it did become, inconsistent with the



HON. CHARLES S. HAMLIN.



perpetuity of our national government. Out of this conflict between states rights and national power finally came the Civil War from which the national idea emerged triumphant.

"I think it can be stated with confidence that Hannibal Hamlin, to the time of his death, never departed from those fundamental ideas as to the rights of the individual states which he had imbibed from early boyhood. The unreasonable, extreme application of these ideas, however, became repellent to his keen intelligence and his broad statesmanship and finally his conscience compelled him to leave the party which insisted upon such application ; yet he stood fast to the ideas themselves as an essential part of the foundation of our great government, believing them in no degree inconsistent with the broadest national development.

"When we compare the period just following the establishment of the Constitution of the United States with modern times we realize how steadily the conception of national power has grown. At the beginning of this period, in fact up to and far beyond the time of the birth and early days of Hannibal Hamlin, while the National Constitution was loyally accepted, yet the prevailing theory seems to have been that the United States government was little more than a confederation of states. At the present time, however, we recognize that our National Constitution created a great nation and that national unity and power can exist without conflict with the rights of the individual states,—rights as precious and inviolable to-day as at any time in our national history.

"We hear much at the present time as to the necessity of increasing the national power at the expense of the power of the individual states and many questions have arisen in which there appears to be inevitable conflict between the two. I feel that to solve these problems properly we need men of the constructive genius and statesmanship of Hannibal Hamlin.

"If he were with us to-day he would be among the first in proclaiming the doctrine that every subject embraced within the powers granted by the Constitution to the national government



is, and should be, within the absolute, supreme control of that government ; on the other hand he would vigorously stand for the powers retained by the states and would defend and maintain them as the very bulwarks of our liberty.

“ There are many among us to-day insistent upon increasing national powers without too careful consideration whether such increase may not be a trespass upon the rights of the individual states. On the other hand we see many eminent men holding back and tenaciously clinging to the states rights doctrine and looking askance even upon the normal development of national powers.

“ To my mind there is no necessary conflict, in the development of those powers, between the states and the nation. The country needs, however, legislators of practical sense and good judgment to bring about a harmonious union or co-operation between the two, and no man was ever better fitted to seek and obtain this co-operation than was Hannibal Hamlin whose memory we honor to-day.

“ To those who apparently advocate an extension of national authority almost obliterating state sovereignty I am sure that he would quote the words of that eminent expounder of the Constitution, James Wilson of Pennsylvania :

“ ‘ To support with vigor a single government, over the whole extent of the United States, would demand a system of the most unqualified and the most unremitted despotism.’

“ On the other hand, I am sure if he were with us that he would point out that the individual states have duties as well as rights, and that each state should faithfully perform such duties not only to its own greatest good, but as well, to that of the nation, and that deliberate refusal to perform such duties might well bring our whole system of dual government into confusion.

“ I know of no man better fitted for such a task than was Hannibal Hamlin, and the example of his life, I am sure, will give strength and encouragement to those statesmen of the present time who are faithfully working to bring about this harmonious co-operation.







HENRY P. FORBES, D.D.

“Hannibal Hamlin was faithful to every trust. He was loyal to his state. He was true to the nation. We owe to his services, in material part, the fact that freedom, not slavery, is the corner-stone of our republic and that all men, black as well as white, can gather together as citizens under the folds of the flag of the United States.”

At the close of Mr. Hamlin's address General Chamberlain introduced the poet of the day in these words :

“Our memorial calls out the answering tones between spirit and matter. It is poetry that threads the deep analogies of the universe. Fitly comes this vision to-day, through your poet, born in Paris,—the Rev. Dr. Henry P. Forbes of St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y., his theme ‘Our Boulder.’”

#### OUR BOULDER

##### I

Gray boulder, rent in dawn of time from far Laurentian crag,  
The Ice-king's clasp, his glacier grasp, held thee while centuries lag.  
Long, long he planed with thee the cliffs, ploughed deep the river's bed ;  
With Titan toil ground fine the soil whence comes our daily bread.

The beauty of this day is thine, the grace of hill and glen ;  
This shapeless land, under thy hand, becomes a home for men.  
And shaping thou wast shaped. In all that age-long stress and storm,  
The Artist fine, wrought, line by line, the beauty of thy form.

Thy toil is done. Thy rest is won. Here, on this noble dome,  
On which the White Hills gaze afar, forever be thy home.  
The hungry sea shall eat the cliffs along Maine's beauteous shore ;  
Naught shall molest *thy* perfect rest. Here sleep thou evermore !

##### II

Fit symbol art thou, boulder gray, toil-rounded yet unrent,  
Of that great life, in fruit so rife, God's chosen instrument  
To plane the toothy crags of ancient wrong and thralldom base,  
Shape a new land, where men shall stand compeers, of every race.

Granitic life of texture firm ! the toilful years fourscore  
Bespoke his dower of sinewy power. No dross was in that ore.  
No drone, no pampered nursling at the the flaccid breast of wealth ;  
Like Norseman old he braved the cold, a rugged oak of health.

Oh seamless life ! Unrent, unshattered by the brunt of sin ;  
That granite will withstood life's ill. No lure his soul could win.  
For him whose clean right hand no tainted gold could ever stain,  
No greed insane of ill-got gain ; give thanks, ye sons of Maine !

Katahdin of our statesmen he ; heaven's airs about him blew ;  
Aloft o'er murk of simpering smirk his powers to greatness grew ;  
The heart that loveth all men's good ; the reason Argus-eyed ;  
The scorn of wrong, the logic strong, the statecraft that can guide.

When slavery's power brought crisis hour, two men the nation calls,  
To lead the fray, to breast the day when fear weak souls appals.  
From slow Sangamon's silent stream the sad-browed martyr strides,  
Our warrior-knight leaps to the fight from clear Penobscot's tides.

For four long years, four crimson years, ere Slavery sank and died,  
Of soul akin, in valor twin, they battled side by side.  
For one the martyr-wreath. But noble life is grand as death.  
*Long* life one gave, the land to save. In both pride glorieth.

### III

In highest heaven was Freedom born, above the star-sown dome ;  
At man's dim birth he came to earth, to make her zones his home.  
In Orient climes he vict'ries won ; a *new* world then to free,  
With Pilgrim bark, mid dangers dark, gull-pinioned, swept the sea.

A hundred summer suns have kissed this hill to harvest hue,  
Since Freedom came, with soul aflame, unto a fireside new :  
A babe new-born in cradle slept. Its horoscope he read ;  
That young life sealed his sword to wield, when gleam the war-fires dread.

Oh, *giant* Freedom, come again ! The slave-stained years have fled :  
When sinks the day, this boulder gray be pillow for thy head.  
Dream ladder-dreams ; arise, and pray, and consecrate this sod,  
For loyal souls who seek high goals, a Bethel, house of God.

### UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL.

The unveiling of the memorial followed. Standing within the lines inclosing the memorial, General Chamberlain announced the simple service by two of Hannibal Hamlin's descendants, Miss Louise M. Hamlin of Bangor, a great-granddaughter, and Miss Julia F. Carter of Paris, a grand-niece. Standing on either side of the boulder, at a signal given by General Chamberlain, they drew the flags from the tablet, a great-grandson of the vice-president, Hannibal Hamlin 3d, assisting ; and the band of the





National Soldiers' Home played "The Star Spangled Banner." General Chamberlain then read the inscription on the boulder, and the formal services of the day were brought to a close.

THE INSCRIPTION.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN

BORN NEAR THIS SPOT AUGUST 27, 1809  
SPEAKER MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
MEMBER OF BOTH BRANCHES OF CONGRESS  
GOVERNOR OF MAINE  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
MINISTER TO SPAIN  
FRIEND AND COUNSELOR OF LINCOLN  
HONORING THE MAN THE PATRIOT THE STATESMAN  
THE CITIZENS OF PARIS  
AND HIS COMPANIONS OF THE MAINE COMMANDERY  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
PLACE THIS MEMORIAL AUGUST 27, 1909

The band of the National Soldiers' Home now returned to the church, and from the platform occupied by the speakers of the afternoon gave one of its delightful concerts to the great gratification of a large assembly. Then the visitors began to leave the Hill by the various roads over which they had made their way to Paris in the forenoon, carrying with them the memory of a historic celebration, worthily conceived and worthily executed.

At a meeting of the Maine Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, held in Portland, September 1, 1909, on motion of ex-Governor Frederick Robie, the following expression of thanks was adopted:

"The Companions of the Maine Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, assembled on the twenty-seventh day of August, 1909, on the summit of one of the most attractive hills in the town of Paris and of Oxford County, having attended the exercises connected with the unveiling of the granite boulder and bronze tablet erected in honor of the illustrious and beloved Senator Hannibal Hamlin,



vice-president of the United States and confidential adviser during the first historic and memorable administration of our loyal and exalted president, Abraham Lincoln, and having celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of his birthday, desire in a suitable manner to express their appreciation of the services of the day, and to render thanks to General Joshua L. Chamberlain, General Selden Connor and Major Henry S. Burrage, a committee appointed by the Maine Commandery for the purpose of making suitable preparations for the exercises incident to the above celebration.

"We do, therefore, accord to the above Companions great praise for fixing the details of the celebration, also for the complete, satisfactory and available conditions, recognized in every part of the exercises, which afforded so grand an entertainment and constant enjoyment to thousands of the citizens of the state of Maine. We also desire to render additional thanks to General Joshua L. Chamberlain, president of the day, Governor Bert M. Fernald, ex-Governor John D. Long, Senator Eugene Hale, Hon. Charles S. Hamlin and the Rev. Dr. Henry P. Forbes, whose tributes contributed so much to the importance and inspiration of the great occasion. With heartfelt emotion we also recall the presence of the widow of Hannibal Hamlin, which added so much to the interest of the exercises.

"The famous band of the National Soldiers' Home furnished most entertaining music and is entitled to great praise for its part in the services of the day.

"We also extend to Rear Admiral Henry W. Lyon (retired), chairman of the Paris executive committee, and his associates on that and other of the town committees, and to all the ladies and gentlemen of the hospitable town of Paris, unlimited praise and thanks for their hearty co-operation in making the celebration a memorable one, and for the generous welcome with which the members of the Commandery were received by them on this historic day."





ANNIBAL HAMLIN

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVER  
SARY OF HIS BIRTH \* \* \* \*

PARIS, MAINE, AUGUST 27, 1909

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